



PENDING CLAIMS

Clean Versions of Pending Claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(3)

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:
 - (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under at least moderately stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of either (a) or (b), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6; or
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c).

2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:
 - (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that is at least about 70 percent identical to the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding an allelic variant or splice variant of the nucleotide sequence as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5, or the nucleotide sequence of (a), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;
 - (c) a region of the nucleotide sequence of any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5, or the nucleotide sequence of (a) or (b), encoding a polypeptide fragment of at least about 25 amino acid residues, wherein the polypeptide fragment has an activity of the encoded polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6, or is antigenic;
 - (d) a region of the nucleotide sequence of any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5, or the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c) comprising a fragment of at least about 16 nucleotides;

(e) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under at least moderately stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (d), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6; or

(f) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (e).

3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one conservative amino acid substitution, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one amino acid insertion, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one amino acid deletion, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 which has a C- and/or N- terminal truncation, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one modification that is a conservative amino acid substitution, an amino acid insertion, an amino acid deletion, C-terminal truncation, or N-terminal truncation, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(f) a nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (e) comprising a fragment of at least about 16

nucleotides;

(g) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under at least moderately stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (f), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6; or

(h) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (g).

4. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

5. A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

6. The host cell of Claim 5 that is a eukaryotic cell.

7. The host cell of Claim 5 that is a prokaryotic cell.

8. A process of producing a B7-like polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 5 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide, and optionally isolating the polypeptide from the culture.

10. The process of Claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises promoter DNA other than the promoter DNA for the native B7-like polypeptide operatively linked to the DNA encoding the B7-like polypeptide.

11. The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 2, wherein the percent identity is determined using a computer program that is GAP, BLASTN, FASTA, BLASTA, BLASTX, BestFit, or the Smith-Waterman algorithm.

48. A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

55. A method of modulating levels of a B7-like polypeptide in an animal comprising administering to the animal the nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

57. A nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3 attached to a solid support.

58. An array of nucleic acid molecules comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

If Examiner Whiteman believes it to be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
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